

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 8467 OFFERED BY MS. CROCKETT OF TEXAS

Makes it easier for states to apply to the Restaurant Meals Program, equivalent to S. 3034.

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At the end of subtitle A of title IV, add the following
(and make such technical and conforming changes as
may be appropriate):

1 **SEC. ____ ASSISTANCE FOR STATE RESTAURANT MEALS**
2 **PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 11 of the Food and Nutri-
4 tion Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020), as amended by section
5 4111, is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(z) **ASSISTANCE FOR STATE RESTAURANT MEALS**
7 **PROGRAMS.**—

8 “(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

9 “(A) **DIGITAL APPLICATION.**—The term
10 ‘digital application’ means a web-based platform
11 that allows for the digital submission of applica-
12 tions.

13 “(B) **ENHANCED TECHNICAL ASSIST-**
14 **ANCE.**—The term ‘enhanced technical assist-
15 ance’ means enhanced detailed educational
16 guidance for States to learn how to set up a
17 restaurant meals program.

1 “(C) RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM.—The
2 term ‘restaurant meals program’ means a State
3 option restaurant program carried out under
4 subsection (e)(25).

5 “(2) RULEMAKING.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
7 after the date of enactment of this subsection,
8 the Secretary shall promulgate a rule, which
9 may be an interim final rule, that establishes—

10 “(i) guidance for States seeking to es-
11 tablish a restaurant meals program; and

12 “(ii) a digital application that a State
13 may use to submit a State plan under sub-
14 section (e)(25) for establishing a res-
15 taurant meals program.

16 “(B) EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERIM FINAL
17 RULES.—An interim final rule promulgated
18 under subparagraph (A) shall be immediately
19 effective on publication in the Federal Register
20 without requiring the Secretary to demonstrate
21 good cause, notwithstanding subparagraph (B)
22 of section 553(b) of title 5, United States Code.

23 “(C) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT AND
24 HEARING.—An interim final rule promulgated
25 under subparagraph (A) shall give interested

1 persons the opportunity to comment and to re-
2 quest a hearing.

3 “(D) FINAL RULE.—After the conclusion
4 of any comment period or hearing under sub-
5 paragraph (C), the Secretary shall issue a final
6 rule in accordance with section 553 of title 5,
7 United States Code.

8 “(3) STATE APPLICATION STATUS.—The Sec-
9 retary shall notify a State agency seeking to estab-
10 lish a restaurant meals program of the status of the
11 application of the State agency, including whether
12 the application is in review, approved, or denied.

13 “(4) RESTAURANT APPLICATION STATUS.—The
14 Secretary shall use a real-time data sharing process
15 established by the Secretary to provide to States fre-
16 quent status updates on the status of applications to
17 the Secretary from restaurants in the State to par-
18 ticipate in the restaurant meals program of that
19 State.

20 “(5) ENHANCED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Not
21 later than 120 days after the date of enactment of
22 this subsection, the Secretary shall provide enhanced
23 technical assistance to States seeking to establish a
24 restaurant meals program, including assistance to
25 establish a digital application for use by the State

1 for the purpose of collecting applications from res-
2 taurants in the State.”.

3 (b) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Section
4 11(e)(25)(A) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
5 U.S.C. 2020(e)(25)(A)) is amended—

6 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

7 (2) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv);

8 and

9 (3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

10 “(iii) whether the State agency will
11 offer a digital application (as defined in
12 subsection (y)(1)) as an option for res-
13 taurants in the State seeking to apply to
14 participate in the program; and”.

